



CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION

Alabama Agriculture Counts!!



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Issue 8

Julie Schmidt, Ag. Statistician

No Substantial Rainfall, Drought Continues

CROP PROGRESS

Sunday, May 20, 2007

Crop	This Week	Last Week	2006	5-Yr Avg.
	Percent			
Corn Emerged	96	93	85	87
Cotton Planted	78	64	83	82
Soybeans Planted	64	51	47	34
Soybeans Emerged	41	22	30	20
Peanuts Planted	49	35	56	61

na = not available

CROP/LVSTK CONDITION

Friday, May 18, 2007

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Exc.
	Percent				
Corn	15	28	42	15	0
Winter Wheat	32	13	24	29	2
Livestock	8	19	40	32	1
Pasture & Range	16	31	42	11	0

TOP SOIL MOISTURE

	Days Suitable	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
		Percent			
District 10	6.8	50	36	14	0
District 20	6.3	46	47	7	0
District 30	6.7	45	52	3	0
District 40	6.7	52	38	10	0
District 50	6.3	30	43	22	5
District 60	7.0	60	38	2	0
State: Previous Week	6.7	41	45	14	0
State: Current Week	6.7	51	40	9	0

EXTENSION/FSA COMMENTS: **General:** A disaster declaration was made by the United States Secretary of Agriculture for 55 Alabama counties that were affected by the Easter weekend freeze. Crops and pastures showed signs of stress, as Alabama fields went another week with no significant rainfall. Shane Seay in the Limestone County FSA office stated that scattered showers were received in some areas, but overall, the county has not accumulated a noteworthy amount of moisture to date. Temperatures for the past week were mostly below average, with the week's daytime high of 94 degrees recorded in Tuscaloosa and the week's overnight low of 38 degrees recorded in Hamilton. Scattered showers were seen across the state, with the biggest rainfall total of 1.50 inches accumulated in Geneva.

Four reporting weather stations now show year-to-date rainfall deficits of greater than 16 inches.

Wheat/Corn: While the majority of the state's winter wheat remained in fair to excellent condition, a slightly larger percentage of the crop was reported in very poor or poor condition due to a combination of the hot, dry weather and a high level of barley yellow dwarf virus infection. Alabama's corn crop also showed a slight increase in the amount of the crop reported in very poor or poor condition. As the number of days without a soaking rain continued to mount, more of the crop was twisting up in the afternoons.

Cotton/Peanuts: Cotton and peanut planting continued even though the ground's moisture was reported as drier this week, but both crop's progress remained behind last year and the five-year average. Some producers chose to dust in their crops, hanging their hopes on receiving a good amount of rain in the coming week.

Fruits/Vegetables: Peach harvest in central Alabama started in early varieties such as Springcrest, Springprince, Queencrest and Sunbrite. The fruit, which are normally small, are even smaller in most cases due to the extreme weather conditions experienced this year. Bobby Boozer, Research Horticulturist at the Chilton Research and Extension Center, reported that "catfacing" and "gumming" caused by freeze damage on the fruit's surface and into the flesh tissue have begun to show up in orchards hit by the Easter weekend freeze. Disease pressure remained low. Insect pressure from spider mites is expected to increase by the end of the month, while plum curculio emergence is expected in the next few days. James Miles, Regional Extension Agent in southwest Alabama, indicated that the fruit and vegetable crops around Mobile look good. Most crops are expected to be ripe and ready for harvest early despite the cool April nights. However, most producers that utilized succession planting and expected to have two separate growth stages have crops that are now at the same growth stage due to cool overnight temperatures early in the season.

Pasture/Hay/Livestock: Forage production has suffered throughout the state. Many cattlemen have experienced shortages of pasture forage, and hay production has been minimal so far this year. Darrell Rankins, Extension Cattle Specialist at Auburn University, added that cattle numbers being sold through weekly auction markets increased slightly, indicating that some herd liquidation has already begun. Many producers have considered weaning calves earlier and at a lighter weight to alleviate some stress on brood cows. T. H. Gregg mentioned that some producers in Etowah County are busy harvesting what hay is available. Jimmy Smitherman, Montgomery County Extension Agent, noted that hay was in short supply and was already being fed.

ALABAMA'S Weekly Crop Weather for the Period: Monday, May 14, 2007 To Sunday, May 20, 2007

Weather Station	Air Temperatures				Precipitation			Precipitation since Jan 1			Avg. 4"	GDD Base 50		GDD Base 60	
	High	Low	Avg	DFN	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	% Normal	Soil Temp	Total	DFN	Total	DFN
District 10 Northwest Alabama - Tennessee Valley 32% of Corn Acreage, 32% of Cotton Acreage, 39% of Soybean Acreage.															
Muscle Shoals	87	45	67	-3	0.14	-1.05	2	10.12	-12.45	45		121	-11	52	-12
Russellville	87	43	65	-1	0.40	-0.89	2	9.73	-15.13	39		112	1	44	-2
Belle Mina	83	45	65	-4	0.15	-0.91	2	13.03	-10.95	54	74	110	-16	42	-17
Huntsville Ag	88	46	67	-2	0.17	-1.02	2	11.47	-13.48	46		121	-9	51	-10
Hamilton	91	38	64	-3	0.21	-1.11	1	12.28	-13.86	47		105	-13	38	-12
District 20 Northeast Alabama - Appalachian Foothills 21% of Corn Acreage, 5% of Cotton Acreage, 35% of Soybean Acreage.															
Anniston AP	91	45	67	-3	0.09	-0.85	1	9.67	-14.90	39		120	-19	50	-19
Cullman Ag	86	40	63	-5	0.28	-0.91	2	12.30	-13.95	47	70	108	-17	38	-20
Sand Mountain	83	41	64	-3	0.27	-0.81	1	13.39	-11.50	54	68	103	-13	36	-12
Gadsden_AP	91	39	65	-4	0.14	-0.91	2	8.68	-16.95	34		108	-21	41	-19
Bridgeport	87	41	64	-3	0.11	-1.08	1	12.50	-13.53	48		103	-10	35	-10
Guntersville	87	42	66	-4	0.36	-0.74	2	10.79	-13.48	44		126	-11	56	-11
District 30 North Central Alabama -10% of Corn Acreage, 4% of Cotton Acreage, 8% of Soybean Acreage, 71% of Peach Trees.															
Thorsby	91	52	71	1	0.00	-0.84	0	8.85	-16.30	35	79	151	12	81	11
Talladega	91	42	66	-4	0.40	-0.65	1	10.74	-15.03	42		121	-11	51	-12
Birmingham_AP	89	48	69	-2	0.60	-0.52	2	11.01	-13.21	45		132	-5	62	-6
Alabaster	90	49	69	0	0.25	-0.71	1	10.11	-16.12	39		137	2	67	1
Pinson	90	43	66	-2	0.35	-0.74	2	10.67	-14.87	42		127	5	57	3
Opelika_Wtr_Plt	88	45	67	-2	0.00	-0.84	0	14.33	-11.26	56		132	0	62	0
Alexander_City	91	48	68	-3	0.03	-0.95	1	12.70	-12.79	50		128	-6	58	-8
Tuscaloosa_AP	94	44	69	-3	0.01	-0.92	1	8.84	-16.07	35		133	-15	63	-15
Jasper	88	44	66	-3	0.02	-1.10	1	11.20	-14.70	43		115	-7	46	-7
District 40 South Central Alabama - Black Belt 11% of Corn Acreage, 12% of Cotton Acreage, 9% of Soybeans Acreage, 21% of Pecan Trees.															
Union Springs	89	49	69	-3	0.03	-0.88	1	13.11	-10.27	56		140	-8	70	-8
Marion Junction	91	48	70	-2	0.03	-0.81	1	8.79	-15.55	36	80	145	2	75	2
Montgomery_AP	91	49	70	-3	0.01	-0.90	1	13.39	-10.12	57		141	-14	71	-14
Livingston	92	46	68	-3	0.45	-0.50	2	9.95	-15.35	39		129	-15	59	-15
District 50 SW Alabama - Coastal Plain 6% of Corn Acreage, 20% of Cotton Acreage, 6% of Soybean Ac., 32% of Peanut Ac., 51% of Pecan Trees.															
Bay Minette	90	52	72	-3	0.46	-0.80	1	18.47	-7.22	72		159	-11	89	-11
Brewton_AG	91	52	71	-1	0.06	-1.09	1	24.69	-0.97	96	81	154	-1	84	-1
Thomasville	91	48	69	-3	0.23	-0.87	1	15.23	-10.24	60		141	-10	71	-10
Mobile_Bates	91	55	72	-4	0.55	-0.78	1	14.23	-10.57	57		156	-17	86	-17
District 60 SE Alabama - Wiregrass 20% of Corn Ac., 27% of Cotton Acreage, 3% of Soybean Ac., 64% of Peanut Acreage, 23% of Pecan Trees.															
Eufaula_Wildlife	90	51	71	0	0.00	-0.91	0	15.49	-6.83	69		152	4	82	4
Troy_Municipal	91	46	69	-3	0.00	-0.84	0	13.50	-9.06	60		135	-15	65	-15
Highland Home	88	44	66	-6	0.03	-0.96	1	13.74	-11.08	55		118	-32	48	-32
Geneva_Ag	91	50	70	-4	1.50	0.64	1	19.89	-2.20	90	82	147	-14	77	-14
Headland	89	56	72	-2	0.00	-1.02	0	14.83	-9.00	62	84	165	2	95	2
Dothan	92	54	73	1	0.00	-0.84	0	14.02	-9.46	60		164	5	94	5

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period). Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches. Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more. Air and Soil Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit. PCT of Norm: Cumulative Rainfall since January 1 as a percent of normal (using 1961-90 normals period), 2007 Weather data prepared By AWIS, Inc. For more weather information visit www.awis.com or call 1-888-798-9955.

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